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NEW BATTLESHIPS.

The Secretary of the United States Navy, in his annual report, recommends the building of two fleets of battleships, of which eight will be assigned to the Pacific, and twelve to the Atlantic. In addition to these battleships, he proposes that twenty coast defence craft shall be built, carrying the thickest armor and the most powerful guns. The problem is to get the ships built in the shortest possible time; and as, with the most rapid work possible, it would require twelve to fifteen years to complete the forty vessels recommended, he urges that eight armored battleships be authorized at the present session of Congress. As thirty-one cruisers have been already built, or authorized, he recommends that no more of this type be ordered, until the battleships and coast defenders are nearing completion. The *appropriation* asked for the navy next year amounts, in the aggregate, to \$25,599,250.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

During the past twenty years Great Britain spent on the Navy alone, the enormous sum of \$1,075,000,000 and during the last five years the sum of \$300,407,112. This expenditure shows a regularly increasing ratio throughout the whole period. For the first five years the average annual expenditure was \$48,000,000, and for the last five \$60,000,000, or an increase of nearly 25 per cent.

During the years 1875-1885 the British Annual Ship-building Votes amounted to \$190,000,000, or an average of \$18,000,000 and the French \$107,000,000. During that time, therefore, England spent on the Navy \$50,000,000, or nearly a million a year more than the French.

WHAT IT HAS COST FRANCE TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT WAR.

At the conclusion of the War of 70-71 the French National Assembly opened a special budget called *Compte de liquidation*, to replace war material, re-organize the army and construct a new line of defence. This account, which does not include the annual and regular expenses of the ordinary War Budget, has swallowed up a sum of \$320,350,000; but since then has been invented the Jebel gun, melinite shells, etc., which have necessitated a second extraordinary additional Budget of \$164,000,000; and lately M. de Freycinet told the Senate that this second budget is only one on account and that towards 1890 the Government must present a third extraordinary war budget to the amount of \$114,000,000, a grand total in twenty years of \$766,600,000.—*Les Etats Unis d'Europe*.

EUROPEAN ARMIES.

	War Strength.	Second Reserves.	Final Reserves.
Germany	2,520,000.	1,520,000.	1,860,000
France	2,440,000.	1,570,000.	1,700,000
Russia	2,495,000.	1,980,000.	2,200,000
Italy	1,010,000.	1,320,000.	1,200,000
Austria	1,145,000.	1,470,000.	1,700,000
Turkey	620,000..	310,000..	340,000
Balkan States	250,000..	165,000..	195,000
	10,480,000	8,335,000	9,195,000

Here we have a mass of men, in number equal to the population of a first-class State, who may at any moment be called upon to take the field. Over *twenty-eight millions* of Europeans, all in the prime of manhood, are liable to expose their lives in the next great war. More than two-thirds of them are at present engaged in civil pursuits; but war might drag every one of them from the office, the field and the workshop, and thus, at a few hours' notice, the commercial, manufacturing and agricultural interests of half Europe might be paralyzed by the withdrawal of all the best and most active workers.

OUR NATIONAL PRESTIGE.

In commenting upon the Berlin Conference of last year, the London *Spectator* pointed out the greatly increased prestige of our country, in the following remarkable language:

“The United States is becoming the greatest nation of the world. It is probable that nothing short of actual violence would now induce any nation to attack her, while she could, if she pleased, ruin the commerce of any nation on the globe. Apart altogether from her existing resources, the growth in the strength of the Union affects the imagination of the European States. There are children alive who will see, or at all events may see, the North American Republic with a population of 200,000,000, and the means of raising £300,000,000 a year; and the idea of incurring the enmity of such a power is appalling. America could be met only by a confederation of Europe, which without some great change of circumstances is impossible, or possible only if Europe felt it too dangerous to put up with the treatment one power was receiving. The Union already stands toward the Spanish and Portuguese-American States in the relation in which she may one day stand toward Europe itself. Her foreign office already claims something like a protectorate over both Americas.”

It is well that the United States has no selfish policy to pursue in respect to other American States or to Europe. Our power will not be envied nor will it be dreaded, if it stands for exact justice and equal good-will to all. Considering the abuses of power, of which history has so crowded a record, it is not wonderful that in the seventeenth century it was thought necessary to make great coalitions and fight bloody wars to prevent one power from becoming too strong.

“Oh, it is excellent
To have a giant's strength; but it is tyrannous
To use it like a giant.”

The United States already has the strength of a giant,—of a giant whose stature will soon assume almost preternatural proportions. Let us hope that the moderation and disinterestedness of our policy may be so evident to mankind as to forefend all apprehension of violence or greed, and be a pledge of international peace and security. —*The Watchman*.

The pregnant declaration of Dr. Henry T. Cheever, that “the establishment of a National Christian party of reform on the basal principles of righteousness and humanity with confessed allegiance to Christ the King, has become a necessary step in the providential march of event and in the progress of a great Christian people,” is worthy of note and will perhaps be remembered in future years.